the MLTI *Update*

THE MAINE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Maine Learns

⚹ Studywiz ⚹

Studywiz workshops were held across the state in January and February.

2-DAY SESSIONS FOR LEARNING TEAMS

Two-person teams from schools across the state met in late January and early February to learn about *Studywiz*, the online learning environment that is available to all MLTI teachers and students. Participants received a *NoteShare* notebook full of information and resources to help them learn more about how *Studywiz* can help them provide deeper learning opportunities for students. They were able to practice creating content and using communication, collaboration and assessment tools that are part of the *Studywiz* environment. Many participants also created content that they will actually use in their classrooms. If you missed these *Studywiz* workshops, watch for make-up sessions to be held in April.

Quick Tips

•Use the "VoiceMemoToiTunes" script in **NoteShare** to save a voice memo as a separate audio file in your iTunes library. Then you can listen to it on your iPod!

•When you're making a voice recording in **NoteShare** or **GarageBand**, type what you want to say on a Sticky note, make it a floating window, and move it to a corner of the screen for a makeshift teleprompter.

•Instead of posting your classroom rules and procedures as text, use your camera and **Comic Life** to make a Classroom Guide comic.

Innovative Teachers' Forum

Microsoft is sponsoring the U.S. Innovative Teachers' Forum which will take place September 27th and 28th, 2007, on the Microsoft Corporate Campus in Redmond, Washington. The forum will bring together teams of teachers from across the country who demonstrate 21st century skills in their teaching and learning. Teams of teachers may apply and , if accepted, will receive paid airfare, hotel, and other expenses. For more information and to apply, visit http://webreply.ws/microsoft/InTeachForum/FrameSet.asp

Spring Content Meetings

The Content Meetings are back! We are planning a round of MLTI Content Meetings in April and May. There will be two day-long meetings in each region. One day will have a literacy focus and be devoted to helping teachers develop strategies for working with digital text. The second day will have a science focus. Watch **MaineLearns** for the schedule and registration information.

Aquatic Invaders in Maine (AIM)

The AIM program offers 7th and 8th grade teachers the opportunity to learn about and integrate invasive aquatic species and biodiversity into their curricula. A five-day Institute at the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center (June 25-29) will convene educators, scientists, and resource managers to participate in discussions and field activities across freshwater and coastal ecosystems. Teachers will develop lessons aligned with Learning Results science standards. MLTI laptops will be used to access online resources and to collect and analyze scientific monitoring data using Vital Signs technology tools. The Institute will be followed by in-school visits to help with lesson implementation and field monitoring components. Teachers will receive the tools necessary to monitor local aquatic ecosystems. The deadline for applications is March 12, 2007. For more information, contact Esperanza Stancioff: esp@umext.maine.edu/ 207.832.0343. AIM is organized by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Maine Sea Grant, and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, and is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Read more about this program and download an application from **MaineLearns.**

Building School Capacity for the 21st Century

MLTI is sponsoring a professional development institute, *Building School Capacity for the 21st Century* to be held at the Samoset Resort in Rockland , Sunday March 25 and Monday March 26. This institute is intended for Technology Integrators, Teacher Leaders, Library Media Specialists, and other interested educators. The program will include hands-on workshops, regional meetings, and a keynote by Dr. Ruben Puentedura. For more information, download the flier from **MaineLearns.** To register, go to http://www.createsurvey.com/c/46093-U291oy/

Middle Level Education Institute

Mark your calendars! The 23rd Annual Middle Level Education Institute "Promoting Learning, Connecting with Technology" will be held June 24-28 at the University of Maine, Orono. The MLEI provides school teams with valuable time to work on projects with the assistance of consultants with expertise in various aspects of middle level education. This year MLEI will partner with MLTI to assist schools with technology integration through *NoteShare* and *Studywiz*. Participants should bring their own laptops as there will be wireless internet access throughout. For more information, read the article about MLEI on **MaineLearns**.

Owl Project

MIT has partnered with Maine Audubon in an innovative project to use cell phones to survey 3 different owl species in Maine. In effect, people will be able to log in to a website and schedule a phone call for the birds. The cell phone will broadcast a signal of an owl's call and then listen for a response. There will be directional microphones to pick up any response and send it to a server to record. This technology is still under development but the MIT researchers hope to field test it in Maine this year. For more information visit http://owlproject.media.mit.edu/

MLTI U~pdate~

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Podcasts!

Some of the richest resources available to teachers today come in the form of podcasts. Podcasts are media files that can be found on the internet and can be played on your computer or on a portable music player like an iPod. Podcasts are primarily audio files but some may include still images or video.

An easy way for MLTI teachers and students to get started with podcasts is to visit the Podcast Directory in the iTunes music store. You will find many educational podcasts there and most are free. If you subscribe to a podcast, new episodes will automatically be downloaded to your iTunes program as they become available. Some of our favorites are *Grammar Girl's Quick and Dirty Tricks for Better Writing, The Princeton Review Vocabulary Minute,* and *Dr. Carlson's Science Theater*.

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BARBARA'S AND PHIL'S PICKS

Barbara's picks this month are all places to find digital text that's free for classroom use. Many classic works of prose and poetry have copyrights which have expired and they are now in the public domain and available on the web. For instance, the complete works of Shakespeare can be found at http://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/ and several other web sites.

Two of the most popular sites for digital text are *Bartleby,* http://www.bartleby.com and *Project Gutenberg*, http://www.gutenberg.org Both of these sites have thousands of digitized books that can be read online or (from *Project Gutenberg*) downloaded in various formats for offline reading. Two other sources of digital text are *Read Print*, http://www.readprint.com/ and *Authorama*, http://www.authorama.com/ Both of these sites have text that is nicely formatted and easy to read. Many teachers are using NoteShare notebooks to create digital books for students by embedding a link for each chapter on a separate page. This allows the student to read the book in a browser window right on the notebook page where they will answer questions or take notes.

Looking for free audio books? Try *Librivox*, http://librivox.org/.